

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include section headings, i.e., in accordance with U.S. practice, and to correct minor clerical errors. No new matter has been entered.

The abstract has been amended to conform to U.S. practice. The claims have been amended to better define the claimed invention, and better distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. More particularly, in dependent claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 19, which has been cancelled. And, claim 20, which previously depended on claim 19, has been amended to depend on claim 18.

Turning to the art rejections, and considering first the rejection of claims 18-22 as anticipated by Black, Black shows in Figure 8 an assembly consisting of three distinct optical waveguides 20a, 20b, 20c, and three distinct mirrors (see column 6, line 14) each associated to one of the optical waveguides. All mirrors have the same size.

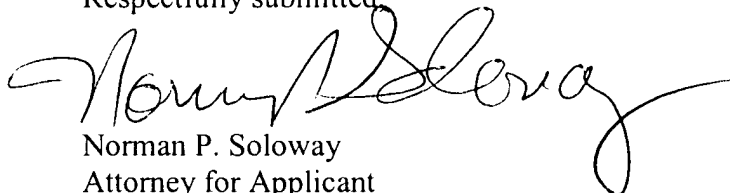
Accordingly, Black does not show a first and a second mirror which both are arranged in prolongation of the optical waveguide. Further, Black does not show that the second mirror takes up a much smaller area than the first mirror as required by claim 18, as amended. Thus, claim 18 and the several claims dependent thereon cannot be said to be anticipated by Black.

With the rejection of claims 18, 23 and 26 as anticipated by Heinrich et al. and the rejection of claims 24, 25 and 27-32 as obvious from Heinrich et al. also are rendered moot by the incorporation of claim 18 of the limitations of claim 19. Thus, all of the claims now are believed to be allowable over the art.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 4, 2003, at Tucson, Arizona.

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